

## RADIATOR BLUES: PART TWO

Bob pulled into his driveway, "Gotta think of something good," he said to himself.

Elaine and Gregory ran out to greet him, Grandma following close behind.

"Where's Mama, Daddy?" said Elaine.

"Yeah. Where's Mama?" said Gregory.

"It was like this," said Bob. Wanda, Glenda's mother, came up behind the kids to listen. "We were in the mall, she goes into Sears to look at bedspreads or something. I go over to sporting goods to look at guns. After an hour, I go to look for her and she's gone, so I go searching through the mall. Can't find her anyplace. Decide to go into Ed's Fast Food Oriental Place for some Ed's Chow Fong and there she is, sucking up a plate of Ed's Famous Yakisoba with that inscrutable cretin, Ed. I never knew he had eyes for her. I punched him out. 'Take the slut, she's yours' I said to him as he's laying there in his noodles, bleeding from the mouth. So there you are. Your mother's run off with a Japanese guy named Ed."

Elaine, Gregory and Wanda just stood there looking at him like they didn't believe him.

Perhaps I poured it on a little thick, he thought to himself.

## RADIATOR BLUES: PART THREE

Raul pulled into his driveway, steam coming up from under his hood. He just barely made it home. He walked next door and got Arturo. Arturo knows a lot about cars.

They got the hood up to look at the damage. "Can we put some of that stuff that stops leaks in there?" said Raul.

Art said, "No, man. You gotta get a new radiator. That hole's too big." He put his foot on the bumper and rested it there, looking at the grill, "What'd you hit, brother?"

"A coyote, man. I think it was a coyote."

"Looks like blood on your bumper there, man."



"Yeah. A big coyote."

Art went to get his truck. They could make it to the junk yard before it closed.

Raul got a rag and wiped the sweat off of his forehead, then the blood off of his bumper.

#### RADIATOR BLUES: PART FOUR

Ruben rubbed the bump under his eye where that 'nasty little bitch' had hit him. He was going to have to make up a lie to tell his wife. She thought it was a rough crowd that hung around the swap meets. She wanted him to retire.

He thought he'd probably make up a story about demonstrating one of the blenders, liquifying some canned tomatoes, when the top flew off and hit him in the face. Then he'd just have to talk her out of calling Ralph Nader.

#### RADIATOR BLUES: PART FIVE

Glenda opened her eyes. She could hear cars zooming by a few feet away. She could smell ivy.

The events of the day were hazy. The last thing she remembered was fighting with that crooked little Jewish monkey who tried to overcharge her for a blender at the swap meet.

She sat up and shook her head, not quite realizing where she was. "That little Neanderthal son-of-a-bitch could really punch," she said to herself.

#### THE JOGGER

A jogger collapsed on Bob and Glenda's front lawn. Bob killed the lawnmower and administered CPR. Glenda came out and shoo-ed the kids back into the house. Young Robert wanted to know why his daddy was kissing a man on the front lawn. His mother said, "Hush, Robbie. The man is sick."